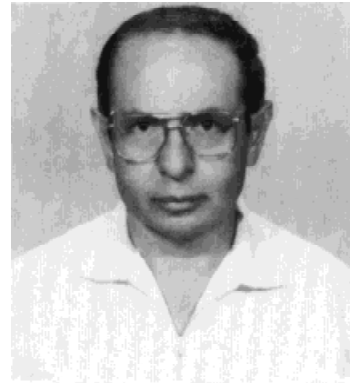


Dr. Luis Alonso Nevárez Zurita
September 30, 1943–December 24, 1996

On December 24, 1996, Ecuador lost one of its prominent physicians, our colleague and friend Dr. Luis Alonso Nevárez Zurita. Luis obtained his medical degree in 1970 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Guayaquil. After post graduate training at the University in Guayaquil he furthered his training at various institutions, most notably at the Institut Gustave Roussy in Villejuif from 1973 to 1976. Luis was very conscious of the importance of viewing Oncology, and in particular Pediatric Oncology, as an international problem rather than a national one. Consequently, he updated his knowledge and shared his expertise in many institutions, among them the Royal Marsden Hospital (1976), M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (1990) and the Montreal General Hospital (1994).

Trained as an adult oncologist, Luis became aware of the special needs for children affected by cancer. He gradually increased more of his time and energy toward childhood cancer and as such became the "father" of Pediatric Oncology in his native country. In 1990 he became an active member of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology, and all of us fondly remember this energetic yet humble colleague. Luis's commitment to children with cancer was highlighted in October of 1995 when he organized the first International Symposium on Pediatric Oncology at the Catholic University of Guayaquil. Several hundred medical students had the opportunity to interact with Pediatric Oncologists from North



America and Europe. Luis was a role model to all of us. He showed how much one can achieve with limited resources once one's heart and mind are committed. We know that one of his compatriots will carry the torch that Luis held so high and with so much dignity for so many years. The children of Ecuador will thus continue to benefit from the efforts of this kindly, unobtrusive yet extremely influential physician.

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